

ELDERLY COMMISSION MEETING

REGULAR MEETING: November 24, 2008 at 5:00pm

East Windsor Town Hall Meeting Room

Meeting Minutes of November 24, 2008:

- I. Meeting called to order at 5:07pm, by Claire Badstubner, Chairman.

- II. Attendance:
Present Members: Elizabeth Burns (Municipal Agent), Claire Badstubner (Chairman), Deb Donovan, Trevor Bray, Madeleine Thompson
Absent Member: Catherine Drouin (Co-Chairman)
Guest: Laura Clynch, Director EW Senior Center and Dale Nelson, Selectwoman

- III. Previous Minutes:
Regular Meeting 10/27/08:
MOTION to accept the minutes, as presented, by Ms. Donovan. **SECONDED** by Mr. Bray.
ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

- IV. Cell Phones for Seniors/ Senior Safety Program:
 - A. Follow-up Questionnaire -
Ms. Drouin will update the commission at the next regular meeting.

 - B. Fact Sheet –
Ms. Drouin will update the commission at the next regular meeting.

 - C. Senior Center luncheon/discussion –
The next 9-1-1 Safety Program at the Senior Center has been scheduled for Thursday, December 4th at 10:30am. Commission members will attend and distribute more cell phones that have been received and programmed since the last safety program.

Ms. Donovan informed the commission that there has been a change to how the cell phones will be programmed. Previously the phones were programmed to connect to 9-1-1 by pressing “1”. Due to the fact that many newer phones are programmed to automatically connect to voice mail by pressing “1”, donated phones will now be programmed to 9-1-1 by pressing “9”. Ms. Badstubner added that it might be a good idea to teach/reinforce the actually dialing of 9-1-1 at the safety program.

Ms. Donovan added that Ralph Ciaburri from “Simply Wireless” has had some seniors stop into his store to ask questions about the phones or to help with the ICE set-up.

Ms. Nelson inquired about the status of the cell phone pouches/carriers. Ms. Donovan stated that the commission can evaluate the needs of them at the 12/4

program. Ms. Badstubner added that no one has asked, as of this point, and that there are currently no funds to purchase any.

Mr. Bray questioned when the commission should evaluate the program to determine if it is a success. A discussion followed regarding how to measure such success. Ms. Nelson and Ms. Thompson recommended asking the seniors some questions (i.e. "Do you feel more secure since you've gotten the phone?" and "Do you keep it with you?"). Ms. Donovan added that the commission is educating the seniors and their families with this program. Ms. Donovan mentioned that this program is done in many towns and suggested that any commission members can call these towns to find out how their programs are working. Mr. Bray expressed concern over how to measure the success of the program – how to find out if the phones are being used and if they work to 9-1-1. Ms. Donovan reminded members that all phones have been tested to 9-1-1.

Ms. Badstubner suggested, as a measure of success, that phone calls be made to the seniors who have the phones to find out if they have needed to use them for 9-1-1. Mr. Bray is willing to do this. Mr. Bray mentioned that he will also be at the 12/4 meeting.

Ms. Donovan further suggested that it may be helpful if Mr. Bray could construct a method to measure the program – what will give you the data to measure the program. Mr. Bray will work on this and present a method to the Elderly Commission at a future meeting.

V. Seniors/Active Adult Survey:

No discussion at this time. To be placed on the January 26, 2009 agenda.

VI. Miscellaneous Business:

- A. Ms. Burns informed the commission that Margaret Hale from ITN will attend the Elderly Commission's 1/26/09 regular meeting. Ms. Burns added that the first official ride day for ITN is also scheduled for that day at Bloomfield Senior Center.

Ms. Burns also informed the commission that ITN is now a 501(c) and has been receiving good support and interest from the area, including a grant from the Hartford Foundation of Giving.

Ms. Burns added that Jim Nilsson of Geisslers is the first merchant to participate in ITN's ride and shop program.

Ms. Nelson suggested that the Housing Authority be invited to listen to Margaret at the January meeting. Ms. Burns will check with Ms. Hale to see if that would be okay. Ms. Badstubner will invite Mr. Steve Knibloe from the Housing Authority and the commission to listen to Margaret Hale's presentation.

Ms. Donovan suggested extending the invitation to others (i.e. Senior Center). Ms. Clynych will plan to schedule a coffee conversation for February or March to have Ms. Hale come to the Senior Center to review the ITN program.

- B. The commission decided to cancel the December meeting due to the holidays and no crucial agenda items. Ms. Thompson made a **MOTION** to omit the December meeting. **SECONDED** by Ms. Donovan. **ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.** A memo will be sent to the Town Clerk for posting.

VII. Adjournment:

MOTION made by Ms. Donovan to adjourn meeting at 5:44pm. **SECONDED BY** Mr. Bray.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine Pellegrini